

# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

## RESOLUTION DISCOURAGING NON-SUSTAINABLE FISHING PRACTICES IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

## CALIFORNIA

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**WHEREAS**, Santa Barbara County is home to a diverse and flourishing marine habitat that includes literally hundreds of millions of living creatures, including more than 550 species of fish; and,

**WHEREAS**, We acknowledge that preserving the unique ecosystem of Santa Barbara County's coastal marine environments and habitats is of the utmost importance and there is a growing realization that non-sustainable fishing practices are stripping our oceans of fish populations and biodiversity; and,

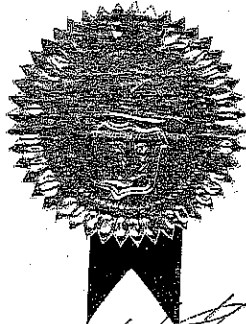
**WHEREAS**, Non-sustainable fishing methods such as bottom trawling, in which heavy, metal-weighted nets are dragged across the ocean floor to scoop up virtually all bottom-dwelling sea life in its path, is indiscriminately destructive to fish populations and essential habitat. The heavy steel equipment used by bottom trawlers may be efficient in catching large amounts of fish, but also wipes out delicate reefs, destroys rock outcroppings, and further endangers protected or critically over-fished species; and,

**WHEREAS**, Hard bottom habitat, a rare but exceptionally vibrant type of seafloor that serves as a breeding ground and shelter for an untold number of species including centuries of deep water coral growth, is especially vulnerable to bottom trawling; and,

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 1459 protects ocean habitats from bottom trawling and closes loopholes that have prevented adequate management of bottom trawl fisheries in California waters. Avoiding habitat destruction, including limiting bottom trawling, may bring about short-term adjustments, but will benefit the long-term economic and environmental viability of Santa Barbara County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED** that this Board of Supervisors proclaims to discourage the use of non-sustainable fishing practices such as bottom trawling in the waters surrounding Santa Barbara County, to further the groundwork laid by Senate Bill 1459 locally, and to urge all members of the coastal community and fishing industry to join in its support.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 2005 by unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST:

*[Signature]*  
Clerk of the Board

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 1st District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 2nd District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 3rd District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 4th District

*[Signature]*  
Supervisor - 5th District